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LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the reply of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the allegations contained in the letter of the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations, addressed to the President of the Security Council on 27 August 1993 (S/26377).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

In the letter of the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations dated 27 August 1993, Croatia renewed its attempt, by using completely false and fabricated accusations, to deceive the Security Council and the world public about the real causes of the interruption in the implementation of the Vance plan and in seeking a negotiated and peaceful solution of problems that have arisen.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers the method of false accusations unacceptable and dangerous and, therefore, with reference to the above letter wishes to draw attention to the following:

- Lacking any argument to justify its aggressive behaviour, Croatia attributes, in an arbitrary and apparent manner, aggressive intentions to the Serb people, i.e., to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Serbian Republic and the Republic of Serbian Krajina. In addition, the Army of the Republic of Serbian Krajina is again referred to as "Serbian insurgent forces", although military and civilian representatives of the Republic of Serbian Krajina have been accepted in negotiations and contacts with the high United Nations officials as legal and equitable participants;

- As far as accusations against Serbia, i.e., the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, are concerned, it is known that, ever since the withdrawal of the former Yugoslav National Army (JNA) from United Nations protected areas, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has had no influence on the situation in these areas nor has it participated in armed conflicts, although it is a signatory to the Vance plan and thus responsible for its implementation. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia refrained from any interference in the armed conflict, even in the case of open armed aggression of Croatia on sector "South" on 22 January 1993, abiding by its principled position that it should not impair by its behaviour the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to solve the conflicts and problems in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia through negotiations and peacefully;

- The Croatian representative accuses "the Serbian side" of intensifying military activities and aggressive intentions against the Republic of Croatia, which is both untrue and illogical. First, the Serbian people cannot be an aggressor in its own territories which are now under the protection of the United Nations. Secondly, the Serbian people in United Nations protected areas was and is still threatened by the Croatian army because of which the United Nations peace-keeping forces were deployed there, the protection of the Serbian people being their primary task. Thirdly, defence forces of the Republic of Serbian Krajina only responded to Croatia's open aggression on United Nations protected areas and their activity depends on the threat of the Croatian aggression to the Serbian people in United Nations protected areas, i.e., the level of protection ensured by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia draws attention to the fact that the United Nations peace-keeping forces are present and active in United Nations protected areas in order to observe, while protecting the Serbian people, the behaviour of the parties of which they have submitted daily reports to the

President of the United Nations Security Council. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is confident that the United Nations peace-keeping forces are in a position to have a real picture of the situation in the field and, therefore, fully trusts these reports. The reports covering the period mentioned in the letter of the Croatian representative clearly lead to the conclusions which completely deny the accusations presented in the letter of 27 August 1993:

- UNPROFOR reports do not make any mention of the possibility of dispatching units of the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Serbian Republic to United Nations protected areas or their attempts to influence the military and political relations and situation in these areas;

- These reports contain no information on the activities of the Army of the Republic of Serbian Krajina which would indicate offensive and aggressive acts. On the contrary, a number of reports point to the movements and concentration of the Croatian army, indicating that Croatia is preparing aggression on United Nations protected areas. They also contain serious objections because of its tightened control over UNPROFOR, impeding of columns and humanitarian convoys and the hostile attitude of the Croatian army and authorities towards UNPROFOR as a whole;

- They state unambiguously that Croatia obstructed intentionally and tendentiously the Erdut agreement reached under the auspices and with the participation of the high United Nations representatives and that its further arbitrary behaviour, particularly with respect to the Maslenica bridge, would certainly lead to the escalation of the conflict;

- The reports note that both sides open fire. Here, one should have in mind that the Army of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, in most cases, only responded to the attacks of the Croatian army, which is contrary to the allegations that it shelled Croatian towns.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia draws attention particularly to the unacceptable allegations in the letter of the Croatian representative on violations of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions by "the Serbian insurgents", Serbia and the Serbian Republic in United Nations protected areas. On the contrary, as it is well known, Croatia has persistently refused to fulfil its obligations under resolutions 802 (1993) and 847 (1993), adopted as a result of its open aggression on United Nations protected areas and its direct violation of the Vance plan.